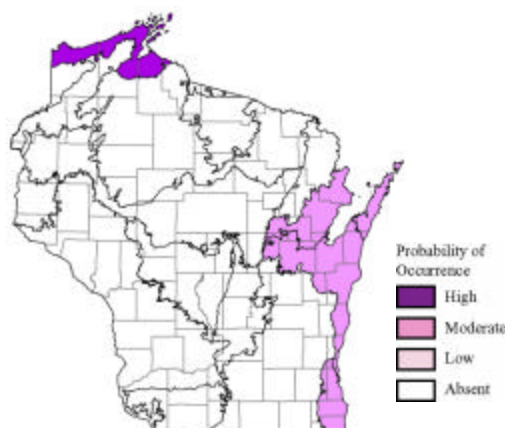


Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	5
State threats:	4
State population trend:	3
Global abundance:	5
Global distribution:	4
Global threats:	5
Global population trend:	5
Mean Risk Score:	4.4
Area of importance:	1

* Please see the [Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries \(Section 3.1.1\)](#) for definitions of criteria and scores.



Ecological Landscape Associations

Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Central Lake Michigan Coastal	Great lakes beach
Central Lake Michigan Coastal	Great lakes dune
Central Lake Michigan Coastal	Interdunal wetland
Northern Lake Michigan Coastal	Great lakes beach
Northern Lake Michigan Coastal	Great lakes dune
Northern Lake Michigan Coastal	Interdunal wetland
Southern Lake Michigan Coastal	Great lakes beach
Southern Lake Michigan Coastal	Great lakes dune
Superior Coastal Plain	Great lakes beach
Superior Coastal Plain	Great lakes dune
Superior Coastal Plain	Interdunal wetland

Threats and Issues

- The federal and state endangered Piping Plover uses Wisconsin freshwater wetland habitats during its life cycle. These habitats are subject to natural and human disturbance, which may subject the species to changes in habitat availability. On the Great Lakes, the loss of sandy beaches and other littoral habitats to recreational/commercial development and dune stabilization have greatly contributed to the decline of the species. Historical Piping Plover nesting sites in the Great Lakes have been destroyed by high water levels, flooding, or eroding beaches. In southeastern Wisconsin (along Lake Michigan), rirapping of extensive beach habitats and development have eliminated former historic nesting sites.
- Piping Plover winter habitats are threatened by industrial or urban expansion, and site quality may be threatened by increasing human use of beaches for recreation. Oil spills are another potential threat during winter as is the stabilization (promoting vegetative growth) of barrier islands and sand flats.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Monitor and protect federally designated “critical habitat.”
- Work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to develop long-range plans for the deposition of "clean" dredge spoil sediments and the creation of appropriate dredge spoil islands in locations likely to attract breeding Piping Plovers.
- Survey potential breeding habitat to locate nesting pairs.
- Post “Piping Plover Nesting Area – Please Keep Off” signs at known breeding sites and place signs approximately 300 meters from nest site.
- Identify and coordinate group of volunteer citizen “plover wardens” to monitor human disturbance at breeding locations.
- Install predator exclosures over nests to deter potential mammalian predation.
- Band all plover young that are produced at nest sites within 7-10 days of hatching.